09/683,715 cof

Attorney's Docket No. WHB-31574 PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Number:		6,768,502 B2
Issued	:	July 27, 2004
Patentee	:	Scott C. Milton
Title	:	Label Printer Dot Line Registration Assembly

Certificate
SEP 0 1 2004
of Correction

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and 1.10

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37 CFR 1.8(a) **37 CFR 1.10**

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Date: August 26, 2004 Joe L. Hauk

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
ATTENTION: Certificate of Correction Branch

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF PATENT
FOR PTO MISTAKE (37 C.F.R. SECTION 1.322(A))

Sir:

It is requested that a Certificate of Correction be issued correcting printing errors appearing in the above-identified United States Patent.

Attached is Form PTO-1050, with the text of the Certificate in the suggested form suitable for printing.

The column and line number where the errors occur in the issued patent are as follows:

Column 6, line 4: Insert --grooves-- after the first occurrence of 'the".

Column 10, line 12: Insert --(not -- after "motor" and before "shown)."

Column 12, line 66: Replace --device-- with "roller".

Column 13, line 4: Insert --a dot line-- after "printing" and before "to"

SEP 0 2 2004

REMARKS

The errors sought to be corrected in the specification are Patent Office printing errors. Supporting documentation includes the following:

1. A copy of pages 8 and 14 of the original specification electronically filed on February 6, 2002, showing the original text of the specification to which changes were not made during the prosecution of the application; and
2. A copy of the Amendment filed on December 22, 2003, with the relevant replacement pages for the claims, showing the amendments to Claim 13 (which corresponds to issued Claim 17).

The requested corrections are to correct printing errors in the claims to conform with the specification and claims as allowed by the Examiner during prosecution. Issuance of a Certificate of Correction would not change either the scope or the meaning of the specification, and re-examination is not required.

As the errors listed are due to the Patent Office's printing mistakes, no fee is necessary in connection with this Certificate.

The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned Attorney for Applicant should any questions arise with respect to this Request.

Please send the Certificate of Correction to:

Thomas J. Pienkos
Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek S.C.
555 East Wells Street, Suite 1900
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3819

Dated: 8/26/04

Thomas J. Pienkos, Reg. No. 46,992
Attorney of Record

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(Also Form PTO-1050)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 6,768,502 B2

DATED : July 27, 2004

INVENTOR(S) : Scott C. Milton

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 6, line 4: Insert --grooves-- after the first occurrence of 'the".
Column 10, line 12: Insert --(not -- after "motor" and before "shown)."
Column 12, line 66: Replace --device-- with "roller".
Column 13, line 4: Insert --a dot line-- after "printing" and before "to"

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:

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Milwaukee, WI 53202-3819

PATENT NO. 6,768,502 B2

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SEP 0 2 2004

fed past the print head to print one color at a time.

[0036] Fig. 4 illustrates an exploded perspective view of a label printer registration assembly 40. Registration assembly 40 includes a print head assembly 42 having a print head 44. Print head assembly 42 is mounted to cover portion frame 9 of cover portion 3. Print head assembly 42 includes a pair of opposing registration faces 46, 48, connected to print head 44. Roller guide bars 50 and 52, respectively, are disposed between registration faces 46 and 48 and proximate print head 44 to guide ink ribbon (not shown) past print head 44. Registration face 46 includes curved opening or notch 54. Notch 54 engages groove 58 in platen roller shaft portion 62 of platen roller 17. Similarly, registration face 48 includes curved opening or notch 56. Notch 56 engages groove 60 in platen roller shaft portion 64 of platen roller 17. Notches 54, 56 are shown to include substantially U-shaped portions 54a, 56a and widened portions 54b, 56b, respectively, which facilitate engagement with the grooves of the platen roller. However any shape of notches 54, 56 that will facilitate engagement with platen roller 17 is contemplated. Alternative shapes can include, but are not limited to, square, polygonal or other contours. The fit between notches 54, 56 and platen roller 17 can be characterized as an locational fit. Platen roller 17 includes an elongated, cylindrical support portion 66 for supporting label media 20 (Fig. 2). In a preferred embodiment, platen roller 17 can be used to move the label media forward or backward. As such, support portion 66 can be made of a tacky and compliant material so as to reduce slippage and better guide the label media on the platen roller. In thermal printing, the material also serves to enhance ink transfer from the ink ribbon to the media. One example of a material used on the platen roller is a black, silicone, rubber-like material by the name of 40 Durometer Shore A.

[0037] Any groove-opening arrangement that accomplishes registration between a moveable printer cover portion and a printer base portion so as to position the print head, and in particular the thermal elements of the print head, with respect to the label media so as to print a dot line in a desired location is contemplated to be within the scope of the present invention. In this manner, when the cover is lifted or lowered, contact is terminated or initiated between the groove of the platen roller and the openings of the print head assembly. Any mechanical coupling (e.g., male or female, snap-fit, tab-detent, etc.) is contemplated.

[0038] In a preferred embodiment, the label printer registration assembly comprises a thermal print head of the kind described above, namely, a print head that produces printed dots one line at a

example, a step motor (not shown). Located upstream (i.e., in a direction opposite label media direction 120) of platen roller 17 is encoder roller 74, described previously.

[0053] Still referring to Fig. 11, located downstream of platen roller 17, are a pair of rollers 76a,b. It is contemplated that rollers 76a,b can be pinch or passive rollers, driven or drive rollers (i.e., rollers connected to, and driven by, for example, a step motor), or a passive/driven roller combination. It is further contemplated that, while not illustrated, rollers 76a,b can be to, or components of, a separate or self-contained label printer cutting assembly. In this manner, rollers 76a,b can be termed cutting assembly rollers.

[0054] Fig. 12a illustrates an enlarged cross sectional view of a portion of label printer registration assembly 40. Print head 44 (shown in phantom) is driven downwardly, indicated by arrow 124, such that it is shown in a loaded position. Registration face 48 attached to print head assembly 42, is shown engaged to platen roller 17. Registration assembly 40 can be said to be in "loaded registration".

[0055] Fig. 12b illustrates an enlarged cross sectional view of a portion of label printer registration assembly 40. Print head 44 (shown in phantom) is driven upwardly, indicated by arrow 126, such that it is shown in an unloaded position. Registration face 48, attached to print head assembly 42, still engages platen roller 17. However, there is a gap 128 between face 48 and platen roller 17. Registration assembly 40 can be said to be in "unloaded registration". Alternatively, registration assembly 40 can be considered to be shown in "loaded registration" in Fig. 12b when the registration assembly is used with a different, thicker, label media (not shown), as compared to Fig. 12a.

[0056] Fig. 13 is an enlarged cross-sectional view taken along line 13-13 of Fig. 12a. Specifically, Fig. 13 illustrates registration face 48 engaging groove 60 of shaft portion 64 of platen roller 17, thereby positioning the label printer registration assembly in registration. Arrows with bars 112, 114 and 116, 118 are included to illustrate that print head 44 (Fig. 6) is prevented, or substantially prevented, from moving both axially and transversely with respect to the axis of rotation of platen roller 17.

[0057] Other functionalities of the label printer that can be used with the registration assembly are more fully described in a co-pending U.S. patent application entitled "Label Printer-Cutter With Mutually Exclusive Printing and Cutting Operations" filed concurrently with the present

Practitioner's Docket No.: WHB-31574

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	MILTON, Scott C.
Serial No.	:	09/683,715
Filing Date	:	February 6, 2002
For	:	Label Printer Dot Line Registration Assembly
Confirmation No.	:	8641
Group Art Unit	:	2861

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and 1.10

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Date: December 22, 2003

Rosa Story

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This amendment is made in response to an Office Action mailed September 25, 2003. Please enter the amendment for the above-identified application.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims (status identifier)

1. (currently amended) In a label printer having a cover portion frame and a base portion frame, a label printer registration assembly comprising:

a registration device securable to the base portion frame of the label printer, and

a print head assembly mountable to the cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly comprising:

a variably loadable print head for printing to a label media; and

a registration face attached to the print head;

wherein the registration face is engageable with the registration device to maintain registration between the print head and the registration device~~,~~ so as to substantially prevent the print head from moving both axially and transversely with respect to an axis of rotation of the registration device.

2. (original) The registration assembly of claim 1 wherein the registration device is a registration roller.

3. (original) The registration assembly of claim 2 wherein the registration roller is a platen roller.

4. (currently amended) ~~The registration assembly of claim 3~~ In a label printer having a cover portion frame and a base portion frame, a label printer registration assembly comprising:

a registration device securable to the base portion frame of the label printer, and

a print head assembly mountable to the cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly comprising:

a variably loadable print head for printing to a label media; and

a registration face attached to the print head;

wherein the registration face is engageable with the registration device to maintain registration between the print head and the registration device;

wherein the registration device is a registration roller;

wherein the registration roller is a platen roller; and

wherein the registration face attached to the print head includes a notch and the platen roller includes a shaft portion having a groove and the registration face notch is engageable with the platen roller shaft groove.

5. (original) The registration assembly of claim 4 wherein the registration face notch comprises a substantially U-shaped portion.

6. (original) The registration assembly of claim 3 wherein the platen roller can rotate about an axis of rotation.

7. (original) The registration assembly of claim 6 wherein the variably loadable print head can be variably loaded to a media-specific load and wherein the registration face can engage the platen roller such that the print head is substantially prevented from moving both axially and transversely with respect to the axis of rotation about which the platen roller can rotate.

8. (original) The registration assembly of claim 1 wherein print head assembly further comprises:

a print head lift cam connected to the cover portion frame; and

print head assembly pin in operative association with the print head lift cam, the pin housing a print head load spring; and

wherein the load spring housed within the print head assembly pin can be compressed via rotation of the cam so as to transfer a media-specific load to the label media.

9. (original) The registration assembly of claim 8 wherein the print head assembly further comprises:

a print head mount connected to the print head assembly pin; and

a print head pivot pin;

wherein the print head pivot pin passes through, so as to pivotally connect, the print head assembly pin and the print head mount.

10. (original) The registration assembly of claim 1 wherein the print head is a thermal print head.

11. (original) The registration assembly of claim 1 wherein the registration device is a shaft.

12. (currently amended) A label printer comprising:

a cover portion having a cover portion frame attached to the cover portion;

a base portion having a base portion frame, the base portion frame connected to the base portion and to the cover portion frame; and

a dot line registration assembly comprising:

a registration roller securable to the base portion frame of the label printer, and

a print head assembly mountable to the cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly comprising:

a variably loadable, thermal print head for printing a dot line to a label media; and

a registration face attached to the print head;

wherein the registration face is engageable with the registration roller to maintain dot line registration between the thermal print head and the registration roller~~,~~ so as to substantially

prevent the print head from moving both axially and transversely with respect to an axis of rotation of the registration device.

13. (currently amended) ~~The label printer of claim 12~~ A label printer comprising:

a cover portion having a cover portion frame attached to the cover portion;

a base portion having a base portion frame, the base portion frame connected to the base portion and to the cover portion frame; and

a dot line registration assembly comprising:

a registration roller securable to the base portion frame of the label printer, and

a print head assembly mountable to the cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly comprising:

a variably loadable, thermal print head for printing a dot line to a label media; and

a registration face attached to the print head;

wherein the registration face is engageable with the registration roller to maintain dot line registration between the thermal print head and the registration roller; and

wherein the registration roller comprises a groove and the registration face comprises a notch for engaging the groove in the registration roller.

14. (original) The label printer of claim 13 wherein the notch comprises a substantially U-shaped portion.

15. (original) The label printer of claim 12 wherein the registration roller is a platen roller.

16. (original) The label printer of claim 15 wherein the platen roller can rotate about an axis of rotation.

17. (original) The label printer of claim 16 wherein the variably loadable print head can be variably loaded to a media-specific load and wherein the registration face can engage the platen roller such that the print head is substantially prevented from moving both axially and transversely with respect to the axis of rotation about which the platen roller can rotate.

18. (original) The label printer of claim 12 wherein print head assembly further comprises:

a print head lift cam connected to the cover portion frame; and

print head assembly pin in operative association with the print head lift cam, the pin housing a print head load spring; and

wherein the load spring can be compressed via rotation of the cam so as to transfer a media-specific load to the label media.

19. (currently amended) In a label printer having a cover portion with a cover portion frame attached to the cover portion and a base portion with a base portion frame attached to the base portion and the cover portion frame, a dot line registration assembly, the dot line registration assembly comprising:

a platen roller, ~~rotate able~~ rotatable about an axis of rotation, the platen roller having a pair of shaft portions, with each of the shaft portions having a groove formed therein, the platen roller shaft portions securable to the base portion frame of the label printer; and

a print head assembly mountable to the cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly comprising:

a variably loadable print head for printing a dot line to a label media, the print head variably loadable to a media-specific load; and

a pair of opposing registration faces attached to the print head, the pair of opposing registration faces each having a notch formed therein; and

wherein each of the registration face notches are engageable with the grooves of the platen roller shaft portions so as to maintain dot line registration by substantially preventing both axial and transverse movement of the print head with respect to the platen roller axis of rotation.

20. (original) The dot line registration assembly of claim 19 wherein at least one of the registration face notches comprises a substantially U-shaped portion.

21. (original) The dot line registration assembly of claim 19 wherein both of the registration face notches comprise a substantially U-shaped portion.

22. (original) The dot line registration assembly of claim 19 wherein print head assembly further comprises:

a print head lift cam connected to the cover portion frame; and

print head assembly pin in operative association with the print head lift cam, the pin housing a print head load spring; and

wherein the load spring is compressed via rotation of the cam so as to transfer a media-specific load to the label media.

23. (original) The dot line registration assembly of claim 22 wherein the print head assembly further comprises:

a print head mount connected to the print head assembly pin; and

a print head pivot pin;

wherein the print head pivot pin passes through, so as to pivotally connect, the print head mount assembly pin and the print head mount.

24. (currently amended) ~~A method of printing to a label media, the method comprising: providing~~In a dot line registration assembly, the dot line registration assembly including: a registration roller securable to a base portion frame of a label printer; and a print head assembly mountable to a cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly including: a variably loadable, thermal print head for printing the registered dot line to the label media; and

registration face attached to the print head~~;~~, a method of printing to a label media, the method comprising:

engaging the registration face with the registration device so as to achieve and maintain dot line registration~~;~~ by substantially preventing the print head from moving both axially and transversely with respect to an axis of rotation of the registration roller;

loading the variably loadable print head to a label media-specific load to achieve loaded registration between the print head and the registration roller; and

thermally printing, at the media-specific load, a dot line to the label media, using the print head.

25. (currently amended) A method of printing to a label media, the method comprising:

providing a dot line registration assembly, the dot line registration assembly including: a registration roller securable to a base portion frame of a label printer; and a print head assembly mountable to a cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly including: a variably loadable, thermal print head for printing the registered dot line to the label media; and registration face attached to the print head;

engaging the registration face with the registration device so as to achieve and maintain dot line registration;

loading the variably loadable print head to a label media-specific load to achieve loaded registration between the print head and the registration roller; and

thermally printing, at the media-specific load, a dot line to the label media, using the print head;

~~The method of claim 24~~ wherein the registration face includes a notch and the registration roller is a platen roller having a shaft portion with a groove as part of providing the dot line registration assembly.

26. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein engaging includes engaging the registration face notch with the platen roller shaft groove.

27. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the registration face notch includes a substantially U-shaped portion.

28. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein loading to a media-specific load is accomplished using values stored on a memory device in operable association with a label media supply.

29. (original) The method of claim 26 further comprising substantially preventing both axial and transverse movement of the print head with respect to an axis about which the platen roller rotates.

30. (original) The method of claim 24 further comprising unloading the variably loadable print head while the print head and the registration roller are engaged so as to achieve and maintain unloaded registration.

31. (currently amended) A printing system for use in a label printer having a cover portion with a cover portion frame attached to the cover portion and a base portion with a base portion frame attached to the base portion and the cover portion frame, the printing system comprising:

a label media supply for supplying a label media;

an ink ribbon supply for supplying a thermally-sensitive ink to the label media; and

a dot line registration assembly comprising:

a platen roller, ~~rotateable~~ rotatable about an axis of rotation, the platen roller having a pair of shaft portions, with each of the shaft portions having a groove formed therein, the platen roller shaft portions securable to the base portion frame of the label printer; and

a print head assembly mountable to the cover portion frame of the label printer, the print head assembly comprising:

a variably loadable print head for printing a dot line to the label media, the print head variably loadable to a media-specific load; and

a pair of opposing registration faces attached to the print head, the pair of opposing registration faces each having a notch formed therein;

wherein the ink ribbon and label media can pass in overlay relationship with each other between the print head and the platen roller; and

wherein each of the registration face notches are engageable with the grooves of the platen roller shaft portions so as to maintain dot line registration by substantially preventing both axial and transverse movement of the print head with respect to the platen roller axis of rotation.

REMARKS

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowance of Claims 19-23 and 31 and the indication of the allowability of Claims 4-5,13-14, 25-27 and 29, which were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response thereto, Claims 4, 13 and 25 have been rewritten into independent form. The remaining claims that were objected to depend from one of the rewritten independent claims, and therefore, no longer will depend from a rejected base claim. Also the Applicant would clarify that Claim 19, as already being independent, was only amended to correct a typo although included in the list of objected claims by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 15-18, 24 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nierescher. (U.S. Patent No. 5,638,106).

The reference cited does not teach the maintaining of the registration between the registration face of the print head assembly and the registration device as claimed. Independent Claims 1 and 12 were amended to more fully clarify that the registration face is engageable with the registration device to maintain registration *so as to substantially prevent the print head from moving both axially and transversely with respect to an axis of rotation of the registration device*. As noted in the specification, "when in registration, print head 44 is prevented or substantially prevented, from moving transversely, or substantially transversely, with respect to axis A of platen roller 17." Also, "when in registration, print head 44 is prevented from moving axially with respect to axis A of platen roller 17." (Specification paragraph 51) The portion of Nierescher cited by the Examiner, namely column 3, lines 54-65, does not indicate any registration as claimed, merely that "The platen roller... supports the print medium in the vicinity of the printhead 80, and the print medium is in constant contact with the printhead 80 when the printhead 80 is printing on the print medium." (Col. 3, lines 61-65). There is no prevention of movement of the printhead in the printhead/platen roller arrangement disclosed in Nierescher. The registration as claimed is not disclosed nor taught in the cited reference, and therefore, for at least this reason, the cited reference does not anticipate the invention as claimed.

The remaining claims rejected hereunder depend from, and are at least allowable for the reasons cited in favor of allowance of, independent Claims 1 and 12.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nierescher (U.S. 5,638,106) in view of Aruga (U.S. 6,141,028).

Claim 28 depends from independent Claim 24, incorporating all of the elements of Claim 24, and therefore is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons cited in favor of the allowance of Claim 24.

Conclusion

In view of the above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of Claims 1-18, and 24-30, in addition to the already allowed Claims 19-23 and Claim 31. Claim 31 was amended only to correct a typo.

No fee or petition is believed due. In the event that a fee or petition is due, authorization is given here to charge Deposit Account No. 23-2053 in the appropriate amount for such fee or petition.

Prior to issuance of any further Office Action in this case, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's attorney since it is believed that such communication could facilitate allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 22nd, 2003

Thomas J. Pienkos, Esq.
Reg. No. 46,992

P.O. ADDRESS:
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555 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1900
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
(414) 273-2100
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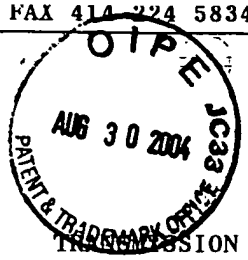

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PATENT

Practitioner's Docket No.: WHB-31574

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	MILTON, Scott C.
Serial No.	:	09/683,715
Filing Date	:	February 6, 2002
For	:	Label Printer Dot Line Registration Assembly
Confirmation No.	:	8641
Group Art Unit	:	2861

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and 1.10

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Date: December 22, 2003

Lora Stong

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

AMENDMENT

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This amendment is made in response to an Office Action mailed September 25, 2003.

Please enter the amendment for the above-identified application.

Auto-Reply Facsimile Transmission

TO: Fax Sender at 414 224 5834

Fax Information
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PATENT

Practitioner's Docket No.: WHB-31574

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Date: December 22, 2003 Lora Story

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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[illegible]

PAGE 1/12 * RCVD AT 12/22/2003 5:12:33 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/5 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:414 224 5834 * DURATION (mm-ss):03-16